

REMARKS

Applicant replies to the Office Action dated August 10, 2006 within the shortened three-month statutory period for reply. Claims 1-123, 158 and 159 (the Examiner inadvertently stated claims 1-159) were pending in the application and the Examiner rejects claims 1-70. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

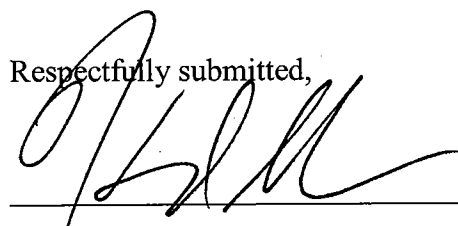
Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 71-123, 158 and 159 (the Examiner inadvertently stated claims 71-159), and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-70. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for accepting the new declaration to overcome the asserted defective reissue declaration under 35 U.S.C. §251.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-70 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is non-statutory. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that independent claims 1, 18, 35, and 54 "do not define a tangible result produced by the claimed steps." (page 2). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in the interest of compact prosecution, Applicant amends independent claims 1, 18, 35, and 54, as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and earnestly requests a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the above in greater detail, then the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience. Applicants authorize and respectfully request that any fees due be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2814.

Dated: August 14, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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